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## BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

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*Social and Industrial Conditions during the Civil War.* By EMERSON DAVID FITE. New York: Macmillan, 1910. 8vo, pp. vi+318. \$2.00.

Scholars have long recognized the urgent need that the economic history of our country should be adequately written, and of particular importance is it that it should be made available for the average student of American affairs. The mere magnitude of the task has been the discouraging obstacle in this achievement. The abundance and wealth of materials; the intensity and complexity of our recent social and economic life; the difficulty of setting practical metes and bounds to such investigations, have well-nigh staggered the writers who would even attempt to set forth this industrial development. A treatment by periods seems to furnish at least one way of meeting the difficulty, and Professor Fite, in concentrating his efforts on the years of the Civil War, has given us a view, in cross-section as it were, of a distinct and circumscribed period, which seems, in this instance, to have justified the method.

As the Preface states: "This book is a description of the occupations and pursuits of the North during the Civil War," a phase of life which the histories of the period thus far written have neglected, in spite of the fact which the author seeks to show that "socially and industrially the North was more active and prosperous than ever before, for the war and war politics did not subvert these phases of the national life."

During the period agriculture, among the extractive industries, showed a steady growth in spite of the decreased supply of labor. The introduction of new labor-saving machinery, the work of women in the fields, the continued immigration from Europe, and migration to the northern states, all contributed to the maintenance and extension of cultivation. Cheap lands, due to the Homestead Law and land grants, had likewise encouraged settlements, while the trunk-line railroads and water-routes aided in marketing the farm products. At the same time that cotton exports almost disappeared, exports of wheat increased over eightfold. The advance in prices and the exceptional demand for food-stuffs abroad thus maintained a ceaseless activity and progress on the farms of the North. Great progress was likewise made in the mining of coal and iron and in the opening of mines of precious metals in the West. The salt and copper districts were exploited in Michigan. But most surprising activities were found in the oil-fields of western Pennsylvania following the successful borings in Oil Creek Valley in 1859, this industry being conspicuous among many for its progress.

The transportation interests reflected the same progress in other lines. The closing of Mississippi River traffic directed trade to the East and the increasing traffic from the West stimulated railroad construction and consolidation and added to the burden of the waterways. Through connections were established where great inconvenience existed before. Congress made provision for the transcontinental route. Maintenance and equipment could not keep pace with

the demands of traffic. Rates on grain and other products actually declined instead of advancing with the rise of prices in general during the paper-money régime. The clamor for cheap water transportation was loudly heard and elaborate schemes were drafted.

The activity in manufacturing was no less surprising. Meat-packing plants, flouring mills, and distilleries increased their output, while the woolen factories were worked to their fullest capacity. The cotton industry suffered from lack of the raw material and cotton mills were changed into woolen mills. A particularly rapidly growing industry was that of manufacturing shoes, due to the introduction of new machinery and the demands of the army. A heavy demand was made on the output of all the metal trades. Many manufacturers' associations were organized during the period, especially in the iron and steel and in the cotton and woolen trades. The government itself was a manufacturer on no small scale. The extraordinary needs of the country, the rising prices, unusual protection afforded by increasing tariff-rates, and finally government contracts kept the wheels of industry turning and the chimneys smoking.

The commercial operations of the period are equally interesting. The sudden shock of war and the repudiation by the South of all debts due the North, estimated at \$300,000,000, brought on a short financial panic. The wild-cat currency of the West collapsed. However, banking was revolutionized in the reform which followed the National Bank Act. Gradually, adjustment to the monetary system and the new order of things was brought about. Through the commercial life of the times, as a powerful modifying factor, the government's activities in the fields of finance were felt on all sides. In place of complete prostration of business, anticipated by many, everything indicated a remarkable degree of prosperity. "There was never a time in the history of New York when business prosperity was more general than within the last two or three years."

One of the most interesting chapters of the book is the one dealing with the investments of capital and its growing combinations. Consolidation, anticipating the movement of today, took place on all sides and many causes contributed to this. It was especially noticeable in the telegraph and transportation business and made some headway in mining, manufacturing, and commercial lines. A few monopolies existed at which there was a bitter outcry. The heavy taxation of the times was probably a force making in this direction. The need of uniformity in transacting business on a large scale and the necessity of lowering expenses during a period of rising prices all produced the "increasing tendency in our Capital to move in larger masses than formerly."

Before the war the lot of Labor had been eminently satisfactory. The sudden introduction of paper money changed all this. Wages were stationary in the face of rising prices of commodities. Cheaper grades of labor were resorted to. Immigration continued, the freedmen found employment, and labor-saving machinery was more and more rapidly introduced. Many labor unions appeared. It was a period of readjustment for both Labor and Capital but the "crisis had been an extraordinary one" for the laborer, and "he was still far from the good times of the previous decade."

In spite of the tremendous drain of the war, vast sums of wealth were spent on public improvements. The larger cities and municipalities introduced gas, water, and sewerage systems; fire departments were organized and car lines first

appeared. Parks were opened and school buildings and churches were constructed on a rather elaborate scale. The magnitude of these operations in the face of war times is almost incredible. The vast sums spent for education while the war was in progress are no less surprising. Colleges were founded, endowments were increased, learned societies were organized, libraries were built, and professional schools sprang up. The enrolment in the lower grades of the public schools increased remarkably. "Education did not materially suffer by the War" and "War was a stimulus to intellectual life."

On the other hand the usual expenditures for luxuries and amusements seemed not to be lacking. Indeed, so conspicuous were they at times that the voice of denunciation and criticism was raised against them. The contributions for charity, especially to alleviate the suffering of war, not only in the form of money, but in services gladly rendered, constituted no small amount when taken as a whole. Vast sums of money were subscribed by individuals and cities and likewise spent by the various states. Missionary zeal was as conspicuous as ever. Expenditures were by no means confined to the bread-and-butter wants.

In a work of this kind one regrets that many other subjects were not discussed, and particularly more fully the effects of national legislation on the various phases of our life at that time. The influence of a government's economic policy on the one hand, and the influence of economic conditions on the political action of a government on the other could have been admirably illustrated and discussed in a period such as this. The transactions of our national government seem to have been left somewhat isolated and out of the stream of current affairs when, in fact, they were the very center of it all. There is also observed here the inevitable difficulty of treating both industrial and social conditions in the same book. Where there is so much to be said they should be kept distinct. One or the other subject is sacrificed, frequently both. The earlier chapters of the work are full of interest. The final chapters deteriorate in quality and subject-matter. It seems a matter of no great concern to the reader after learning what had been accomplished on a grand scale in manufacturing and mining, to know that "Love songs were almost entirely absent"; whether "Gilmore's band gave many concerts" or not; or what distinguished persons were in attendance at Tom Thumb's wedding. Among the many admirable features of the work are the statistics of various operations not often available to the average person. The volume of facts presented is enormous. The illustrative notes are abundant, and a particularly interesting feature is the frequent comparisons between conditions in the North and in the South at the beginning of the war.

ARTHUR J. BOYNTON

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

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*Privilege and Democracy in America.* By FREDERICK C. HOWE, PH.D. New York: Scribner, 1910. 8vo, pp. xii+315. \$1.50 net.

"There are two and only two solutions of the social problem which confronts the civilized world. One is industrial socialism. The other is industrial freedom. From the time of Plato down to Karl Marx men have dreamed of utopias, based upon a society consciously organized, and controlling the agencies of production and distribution for the common welfare. In every age, too, men have